

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 so that the claims read as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A ceramic heater, comprising an insulative ceramic base material and a heat-generating resistor embedded in the insulative ceramic base material, being characterized in that the heat-generating resistor comprises, as main components, silicon nitride, an electrically conductive compound and a grain boundary amorphous glass phase; the amount of a rare earth element contained in the heat-generating resistor is less than 2% mol in terms of its oxide (RE_2O_3 ; RE representing a rare earth element); and, when the mol number of the rare earth element in terms of its oxide is represented by A and the mol number of an amount of excess oxygen in terms of silicon dioxide (SiO_2) contained in the heat-generating resistor is represented by B, a ratio value R computed by the following formula (1) is 0.3 or less:

$$R=A/(A+B) \quad (1).$$

Claim 2 (Original): The ceramic heater as set forth in claim 1, wherein the content of the electrically conductive compound in the heat-generating resistor is from 20 to 30% by volume.

Claim 3 (Original): The ceramic heater as set forth in claim 1, wherein the rare earth element oxide is Er_2O_3 and/or Yb_2O_3 .

Claim 4 (Original): The ceramic heater as set forth in claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive compound is tungsten carbide and/or zirconium boride.

Claim 5 (Original): The ceramic heater as set forth in claim 4, wherein the content of the electrically conductive compound in the heat-generating resistor is from 20 to 30% by volume.

Claim 6 (Original): A glow plug, characterized by comprising the ceramic heater as set forth in claim 1.

Claim 7 (Original): The glow plug as set forth in claim 6, wherein the content of the electrically conductive compound in the heat-generating resistor is from 20 to 30% by volume.

Claim 8 (Original): The glow plug as set forth in claim 6, wherein the rare earth element oxide is Er_2O_3 and/or Yb_2O_3 .

Claim 9 (original): The glow plug as set forth in claim 6, wherein the electrically conductive compound is tungsten carbide or zirconium boride.